

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 94

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jerry Hope on his receipt of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those aviation professionals who have shone as beacons of safety and excellence for many years; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hope is one such remarkable individual who, in fitting recognition of his unparalleled dedication to the practice of safe flight operations, was recently honored with the prestigious Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); and

WHEREAS, the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award recognizes the efforts of pilots who have followed and continue to follow the precaution and awareness of safe flight operations by honoring those pilots who have contributed and maintained safe flight operations for fifty or more consecutive years of piloting aircraft; and

WHEREAS, named in honor of Orville and Wilbur Wright, the award criteria provides that a pilot hold a U.S. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) or FAA pilot certificate and have fifty or more years of civil and military piloting experience or fifty or more years combined experience in both piloting and aircraft operations; and

WHEREAS, Greeneville resident Jerry Hope made his first solo flight on his sixteenth birthday in 1960 and has continued to fly ever since; he currently pilots a two-seat Europa 914 XS Tri-gear airplane he built himself; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hope's love of flying began at the age of five, when he and his aunt took a ride on a Beechcraft Bonanza aircraft; after moving with his family to a home near the Redbird Airport in Dallas, Texas, he took a job at the airport mopping floors and cleaning the pilots' lounge in order to be closer to all things aviation-related; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hope soon began servicing and cleaning airplanes at a local flight school and saved his wages for his first flight lessons; and

WHEREAS, after making his first solo flight at sixteen, he received his private pilot's license on his seventeenth birthday and his commercial pilot's license on his eighteenth birthday; and

WHEREAS, as a college student, Mr. Hope became a flight instructor at Goble Aviation and gave private lessons before deciding to pursue a career as a commercial airline pilot; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hope was hired as a commercial airline pilot for Braniff International Airways at the age of twenty-one and began training in numerous airplanes over the next several years as he acquired flight hours and experience; and

WHEREAS, in his storied career as a commercial airline pilot, Mr. Hope flew both international and domestic routes with Braniff International for sixteen years and Piedmont Airlines for twenty-two years, including after its merger with U.S. Airways; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hope was required to retire in 2004 when he turned sixty; it was at that time that he set about building his own airplane, which required over 2,200 hours to complete; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hope looks back fondly on his time flying commercial planes, with his favorites being the Boeing 747, which he calls "the queen," and the Boeing 727; during his career, he acquired more than 30,000 hours of flight time and never so much as dented an airplane; and

WHEREAS, after more than sixty years as a pilot, Jerry Hope can still be found flying the friendly skies over Greene County; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Hope is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of fifty-six years, Jeanne; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hope has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity throughout his estimable career, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the flying public; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Jerry Hope upon his receipt of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award by the Federal Aviation Administration, extending our deepest appreciation for his many years of service as a commercial pilot and our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.